

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Office Action of January 2, 2008. This Amendment is in full response thereto. Thus, Applicants respectfully request continued examination and allowance of the application.

Claims 44 - 71 are pending of which 44 - 71 stand rejected.

Claims 44, 70, and 71 have been amended to delete the phrase "which may be used".

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 44 - 71 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steynberg et al. '699 in view of Butwell et al. '750. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 44 -71 are not anticipated by Steynberg et al '699 in view of Butwell et al. '750.

Claims 44, 70 and 71 of the instant application require that the waste gas be separated into at least three product streams. The Examiner notes that Steynberg et al. '699 discloses the separation during the vapor phase into three gas component streams. However the first gas component stream is *internally recycled* and hence not a product stream (see column 4, lines 37 - 39, and column 5, lines 25 - 28). Butwell et al. '750 fails to remedy this deficiency. Hence, the invention of claim 44 of the instant application is neither taught nor suggested by either Steynberg et al. '699 or Butwell et al. '750, either alone or in combination. As claims 45 - 69 are dependent upon claim 44, these rejections are also moot as pertains to them.

Conclusion

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of the application, he/she is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

It is not believed that any fee is due at this time. If that belief is incorrect, please debit deposit account number 01-1375. Also, the Commissioner is authorized to credit any overpayment to deposit account number 01-1375.

Respectfully submitted,

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